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PAGE 01

NC 56306

STATSPEC

TOR:272052Z JUL 76

R 271702Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 968

INFO RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 464

RUESGY/AMEMBASSY GUAYAQUIL 9026

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 5313

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: LOS, UN, EC

SUBJECT: ECUADOR TO MAINTAIN 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA POSITION

REF: A) QUITO 3509 B) QUITO 5294

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. AMBASSADOR LUIS VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ, HEAD OF THE GOE LOS DELEGATION, PRIOR TO DEPARTING FOR NEW YORK, DECLARED THAT "ECUADOR WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION CHARACTERIZED BY THE IRREDUCIBLE DEFENSE OF A 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA, THE THESIS THAT HAS BEEN THE FORCE THROUGH WHICH THE THIRD WORLD REVINDICATES ITS RIGHTS." HIS REMARKS WERE REPORTED IN QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL NEWSPAPERS OF JUNE 24.

2. VALENCIA RECOGNIZED THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE LOS CONFERENCE FAVOR A 12 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND AN 188 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. HOWEVER, SAID VALENCIA, THE EFFORTS OF ECUADOR AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TERRITORIAL GROUP HAVE RESULTED IN A CONSTANTLY GROWING CONSENSUS THAT COASTAL STATES SHOULD ENJOY SPECIFIC RIGHTS WITHIN 200 MILES, INCLUDING THOSE OF CONTROLLING ALL LIVING AND NON-LIVING RESOURCES, BOTH IN THE WATER AND BELOW IT.

3. VALENCIA SAID THAT THE GROUP OF 77 (OF WHICH ECUADOR IS A MEMBER) IS PUSHING FOR AN AGREEMENT GIVING COASTAL STATES RIGHTS TANTAMOUNT TO A 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GROUP OF 77 IS ITSELF DIVIDED ON CERTAIN POINTS AND THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO IMPROVE THE GROUP'S COHESION.

4. VALENCIA ENDED HIS COMMENTS SAYING "IN SPITE OF THE PROGRAM TO DATE, THERE ARE STILL MANY OBSTACLES TO BE OVERCOME BEFORE ARRIVING AT A DETERMINATION OF THE TEXT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE LAW OF THE SEA. A GREAT CONCILIATORY SPIRIT AND A STRONG DOSE OF GOOD WILL IS NEEDED ON THE PART OF ALL STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE . . .

END UNCLASSIFIED

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BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL:

5, COMMENT: WE BELIEVE VALENCIA'S STATEMENT REPRESENTS
AN EFFORT OF THE GOE TO TAKE CREDIT FOR HAVING MOVED THE
MAJORITY OF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD TOWARD THE CONCEPT
OF COASTAL STATE CONTROL OF LIVING AND NON-LIVING RESOURCES,
WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ADVISING THESCUADOREAN PUBLIC
THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNTRIES DO NOT ACCEPT ECUADOR'S
LONG-HELD 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA CONCEPT AND THAT IT IS
UNLIKELY TO BE ADOPTED AT THE LOS CONFERENCE. END COMMENT
BLOOMFIELD

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